



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 12, 2003

CONTACT PERSON: Aaron Coutu, RITBA Committee Chairperson
Youth Services Librarian at the Greenville Public Library
(401) 949-3630 ext 103

Young adults from across Rhode Island chose Ann Brashares' *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* as their favorite book for the past year in an election in January. As a result, Brashares' book was awarded the Rhode Island Teen Book Award. The award, is sponsored by the Rhode Island Educational Media Association and the Rhode Island Library Association. Runners up for the award include *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer and *Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants was one of 22 young adult books nominated by school library media specialists, teachers, and public librarians from Rhode Island. Throughout the past year, young adults could find copies of the books available to read at their local school and public libraries. Readers were eligible to vote in the January election as long as they had read three of the titles from the list.

In Brashares' novel, The pants were magic--worn, thrift-shop jeans that made each of the four best friends look absolutely fabulous. Obviously they were life-changing pants. Thus the plan: route them to each of the four at their various summer destinations, with appropriate rules attached, of course, and watch wonderful things happen. Only they don't. Carmen's dad still remarries; Lena's trip to Greece to visit her grandparents is still marred by a terrible misunderstanding with a gorgeous Greek teen; Bridget still does dumb things at a Baja California soccer camp; and Tibby must work at Wallman's. The pants are just pants, and life is just life, full of joys, sorrows, living, and dying. The sequel, *The Second Summer of the Sisterhood*, is due to be released in April of this year.

The Rhode Island Teen Book Award Committee would like to commend Burrillville Middle School for successfully promoting the election for the book award. Students at the school made up almost 20 percent of all those who voted. Young adult participants from Coventry High School and the Greenville Public Library in Smithfield also each made up more than 10 percent of those voting.

The committee is also announcing the list of 22 nominees for next year's award election.

For more information, feel free to contact Aaron Coutu, the committee chair, at 949-3630 ext. 103.